

REMARKS

Claims 2, 6, 8 and 9 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3-5 and 7 were canceled. Claims 2 and 6 was amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. For at least the reasons set forth below, withdrawal of all outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

No new matter was entered. The new language in claims 2 and 6 is fully disclosed in the original specification. For example, the new language of claim 2 is discussed in the specification on page 32, lines 18-22. The new language of claim 6 is discussed in the specification on page 53, lines 11-13.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-3 and 5-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Admitted Prior Art Figure 9.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art Figure 9 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,069,802 (Priegnitz).

Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

1. Patentability of independent claim 2 over Admitted Prior Art Figure 9.

Claim 2, as amended, recites, *inter alia* (underlining added for emphasis):

a first drive switch and a second drive switch which are connected in series to form a first series circuit, said first series circuit being connected to an output of said auxiliary power supply; ...

and a drive control circuit which makes said first drive switch and said second drive switch perform ON/OFF operation alternately in synchronism with said PWM signal and applies a positive/negative voltage by alternation to the primary winding of said drive transformer to store said exciting energy, controls said first drive switch and said second drive switch to have an OFF period in which said first drive switch and said second drive switch are simultaneously OFF according to the PWM signal, and ON/OFF-drives said synchronous rectifier section by said exciting energy stored in the period during which said first drive switch and said second drive switch are simultaneously OFF.

Amended claim 2 recites that a first drive switch and a second drive switch are connected in series and also a drive control circuit ... which controls said first drive switch and said second drive switch have an OFF period in which the first drive switch and the second drive switch are simultaneously OFF. This limitation is not disclosed or suggested in Prior Art Figure 9.

The Examiner states that first and second drive switches are disclosed by a first npn transistor 116 and a first pnp transistor 117 or by a second npn transistor 118 and a second pnp transistor 119 in Fig 9. However, first npn transistor 116 and first pnp transistor 117 do not have a simultaneous OFF period. First npn transistor 116 and first pnp transistor 117 are driven by the same signal (VG2 shown in part (b) of Fig. 10). Because this signal turns npn transistor 116 ON at the same time it turns pnp transistor 117 OFF, these two transistors are not simultaneously OFF. Similarly, second npn transistor 118 and second pnp transistor 119 do not have a simultaneous OFF period. Second npn transistor 118 and second pnp transistor 119 are driven by the same signal (VG1 shown in part (a) of Fig. 10). Because this signal turns npn transistor 118 ON at the same time it turns pnp transistor 119 OFF, these two transistors are not simultaneously OFF. Additionally, nowhere else does Fig. 9 disclose a first drive switch and a second drive switch that are connected in series and that are simultaneously OFF. For this reason, Fig. 9 does not disclose or suggest the invention recited in claim 2.

Accordingly, claim 2 is believed to be patentable over the applied reference.

2. Patentability of independent claim 6 over Admitted Prior Art Figure 9.

Claim 6, as amended, recites, *inter alia* (underlining added for emphasis):

... a drive transformer for ON/OFF-driving said synchronous rectifier section according to said PWM signal or a voltage signal applied to said switching section, wherein

a first winding of the drive transformer is connected to the switching sections ...

Amended claim 6 recites that a first winding of the drive transformer is connected to the switching sections. This limitation is not disclosed or suggested in Prior Art Figure 9.

The Examiner states that a drive transformer is disclosed by drive transformer 121 and that switching sections are disclosed by switching devices 103-106 in Fig 9. However, none of

the windings of drive transformer 121 are connected to any of the switching devices 103-106. Additionally, nowhere else does Fig. 9 disclose a drive transformer that is connected to the switching sections. For this reason, Fig. 9 does not disclose or suggest the invention recited in claim 6.

Accordingly, claim 6 is believed to be patentable over the applied reference.

3. Claims 1, 3-5 and 7.

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7 were cancelled, and therefore, the rejections of claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) have been effectively rendered moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

4. Patentability of the remaining dependent claims

The remaining dependent claims are believed to be patentable over the applied references for at least the reason that they are dependent upon allowable base claims and because they recite additional patentable elements and steps.

Conclusion

Insofar as the Examiner's rejections were fully addressed, the present application is in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowability of all pending claims is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Koji YOSHIDA, et al.

October 9, 2006 By: Clark Jablon
(Date) CLARK A. JABLON
Registration No. 35,039
AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP
One Commerce Square
2005 Market Street - Suite 2200
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Direct Dial: (215) 965-1293

CAJ:ALL:gem